



U.S. Department of the Interior | Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of Agriculture | Forest Service

USDA Forest Service
Salmon-Challis National Forest
1206 S. Challis Street
Salmon, Idaho 83467

Bureau of Land Management
Challis Field Office
1151 Blue Mountain Road
Challis, Idaho 83226

Dear Interested Party,

We are writing to let you know about an opportunity to provide input on the Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness Management Plan. The Salmon-Challis National Forest (SCNF) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Challis Field Office have developed a draft Plan. We wanted to provide you with some background information, and information on how you can be involved in this planning process.

Background

On August 7, 2015 President Obama approved the *Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Jerry Peak Wilderness Additions Act* (Public Law 114-46), which included the designation of three new wilderness areas as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System, including the Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and BLM cooperatively administer the Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness.

The Wilderness Act, signed into law in 1964, established the National Wilderness Preservation System for protection of federal lands. The Act provides the overriding mandate to each agency to preserve wilderness character. Wilderness management plans are developed using the sideboards of the Wilderness Act, the enabling legislation for an area, in this case the *Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Jerry Peak Wilderness Additions Act*, and agency regulation and policy. A wilderness management plan guides the preservation, management, and use of wilderness to ensure it is unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness.

The enabling Public Law 114-46 requires, in Section 102(c), the USFS and the BLM to develop wilderness management plans no "later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act." In fulfillment of this requirement, the BLM and USFS are initiating development of a Wilderness Management Plan for the Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness. (Please note that the planning process for the White Clouds Wilderness and Hemingway-Boulders Wilderness is occurring separately). The Wilderness Management Plan for this area will provide management guidance for the BLM and USFS in decisions affecting the Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness. The primary planning purposes are to:

- provide management direction for the preservation of wilderness character by identifying the conditions and opportunities that will be managed for within the Wilderness,
- develop clear wilderness management objectives, and the actions by which these objectives will be achieved, and
- provide opportunities for interested publics and partners to give input and engage in the planning direction.

Public Involvement Opportunity

For this scoping period, those who are interested may review the draft plan and provide comments by **March 17, 2017**. To access the draft plan, or for more information on the planning process, the wilderness areas, and interactive maps, please visit the interagency project website at

<http://arccg.is/2j9GNu4>. Within this interagency site, you may access the link to the project website for the USFS, or the BLM project site on the ePlanning NEPA Register. Both agencies provide project information on their respective sites, but the documents are the same on both sites. You may also request hard copies or CDs containing the document by contacting the Middle Fork Ranger District at 208-879-4101.

In order to make comments, you may use one these methods:

- Send an email to: comments-intermttn-salmon-challis-middlefork@fs.fed.us. Please indicate “Wilderness Plan” in the subject line. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an e-mail message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), and Word (.docx).
- Send a hardcopy letter to: Middle Fork Ranger District, 311 N. US Highway 93, Challis, ID 83226.

When responding during this scoping period, please provide comments that specifically focus on the Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness. Comments that can be used in the analysis for the plan and proposed action (i.e. substantive comments) may include:

- A proposed action or issue that hasn’t been included, but you believe should be.
- Changes to proposed actions that you recommend and why you recommend them.
- Recommend a reasonable alternative, or provide additional information, data, or analysis that can be used when the agencies consider impacts of alternatives.

The BLM and USFS will also offer several public meetings during the scoping period:

- Mackay, Idaho: February 23rd, 5-7 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 92 South Main St.
- Webinar: February 27rd, 2-4 p.m. accessible at <https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/r3wfcti6c7y/>
- Challis, Idaho: February 27th, 5-7 p.m. at the Forest Service Office, 311 N. US Hwy 93.
- Ketchum, Idaho: March 2nd, 5-7 p.m. at the Ketchum Community Library, 415 Spruce Avenue.

Following the scoping period, the USFS and BLM will revise the Wilderness Management Plan based on scoping input and will develop an environmental assessment. Subsequently, the revised Plan and environmental assessment will be provided for public comment; anticipated for late fall 2017.

Thank you for your interest in wilderness planning for these special areas. We appreciate you taking the time to review and comment on the document. Your perspective and input is invaluable as we develop the management plan to guide the future of this wilderness area.

Sincerely,

 2/14/17

Charles A. Mark
Salmon-Challis National
Forest Supervisor

Date

 2/14/17

Mary D'Aversa
BLM, Idaho Falls
District Manager

Date